GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2400
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2001
NATIONALISATION OF COAL MINES
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the coal industry was nationalised;

(b) the reasons for its nationalisation;

(c) whether mine safety was the main reason for which the coal industry was nationalised ;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) the extent to which these objectives have since been achieved;

(f) the number of accidents which took place in various coal mines since their nationalisation;
(g) whether there has been no decline in the mine accidents;
(h) if so, the reasons therefor; and
(i) the number of miners killed in each such mine mishap?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) to (b) The coal mines in the country were nationalised in two stages, nationalisation of coking coal mines in 1971 -72 followed by nationalisation of non-coking coal mines in 1973. The major reasons for such nationalisation were:-

i) Unscientific mining practices in private coal mines;
ii) Inadequate capital investment by the private owners of the mines;
iii) Poor working conditions of coal labour in such mines.

(c) & (d) While mine safety was one of the reasons for which the coal industry was nationalised, it was not the only reason for nationalisation of coal industry.

(e) Since nationalisation, production of coal in Coal India Limited has increased from 77 million tonnes to 260.58 million tonnes in 1999-2000 and productivity has grown from an Output per Manshift (OMS) of 0.58 tonneat the time of nationalisation to an OMS of 2.11 tonne in 1999-2000. Investment in coal sector has grown substantially and the number of fatal accidents in coal mines have come down form a level of 177 in 1975 to 79 in 2000 with fatalities coming down from 223 in 1975 to 99 in 2000.

(f) The number of fatal accidents with took place in various coal mines and the number of miners killed in such mine accidents since 1975, when Coal India Limited was formed, are as follows:-

Year	Number of fatal accidents	Number of miners killed
1975	177	233
1976	177	249
1977	177	197
1978	179	154
1979	114	147
1980	112	129
1981	127	145
1982	123	148
1983	127	160
1984	123	134

1985	136	152
1986	133	154
1987	130	141
1988	137	151
1989	131	150
1990	121	135
1991	115	120
1992	131	150
1993	118	132
1994	113	186
1995	113	192
1996	96	110
1997	99	111
1998	91	104
1999	94	103
2000	79	99
Total	3273	3886

Note: Figures are subject to reconciliation with Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS).

(g) Fatal accidents have been declining since 1975, when CIL was formed.As evident from the table given in part (f) the number of fatal accidents have decreased from 177 in 1975 to 79 in 2000.

(h) Does not arise in view of answer given in part (g) above.

(i) The number of miners killed in the fatal accidents that took place between 1975 and 2000 is 3886, the details of which are given in reply to part (f) above.